

# Centennial History

1883 - 1983



ORIGINAL ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

## Parish of Te Ngawai





Centennial History  
of  
Parish of Te Ngawai

by

Mrs. O. P. Oliver

## FOREWORD

“And we thought — If this should be said of us, or to our descendants in time to come, we should say ‘Behold, the copy of the altar of the Lord, which our forefathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you’.” (Josh. 22 v. 28)

The Parish of Te Ngawai has been witnessing to their faith in God and their gratitude for His many mercies for a hundred years now. At this time of celebration it is suitable that we should put into writing a record of that witness, and Mrs Olwyn Oliver has done this very ably and accurately.

As Archbishop West-Watson wrote in his Foreword to the Centennial book of this Diocese “Canterbury Pilgrimage”, written by one of our earlier parishioners, “We look back from the peak of the centenary and trace with thankful eyes the wonderful path by which God has guided our forefathers and those who came after them. Moses’ words to the Israelites are as surely applicable to us, that this story should be in our hearts and we should teach it diligently to our children. With the record of all that God has done for us firmly in their minds, they will face all that the future may bring with faith and hope. May we all remember the assurance which the Lord gave to Joshua, ‘I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee: be strong and of good courage.’ ”

ALAN D. TALBOT,

Chairman — Centennial Committee.

# PARISH of TE NGAWAI and ST. ALBANS CHURCH

On 26/27 November, 1983, the Centenary of Te Ngawai Parish is to be celebrated but Anglican worship in the district was taking place in "home, school and shed" much longer than a hundred years ago.

In "Canterbury Pilgrimage" Canon Parr recounts Bishop Harper's journeys into this area of the Diocese as early as 1858. As he made his difficult journeys on horseback through his extensive Diocese, (from Hurunui in the north to Stewart Island in the south) he visited the principal stations. Levels, Arowhenua and Opuha en route south. Bishop Julius in his diary in June, 1858 wrote "Rode in from Mr MacDonald's (Orari) to Mr Rhodes (The Levels). Opihi high but fordable. Evening Prayer. Splendid day. June 19. Rode back to the Arowhenua Bush and called at Dean's Accommodation House and at Mr Hornbrook's (Arowhenua and Opuha Stations) announcing to them the proposed service at Mr Rhodes' the day following. Returned to Mr Rhodes 3 p.m. Evening Prayer.

June 20, Sunday, Levels Station. Morning Service. Rode on to Timaru. Evening Service in Cane's Woolshed. (This is considered to be the first public service conducted by a clergyman in Timaru).

On 9th January 1860 Rev. George Foster was licensed to the curacy of the Pastoral District of Timaru which included the whole of South Canterbury, and in Pleasant Point as early as 29th August, 1869, Mr Wm. B. Howell and Edward Meek were licensed as lay-readers for this district. (These gentlemen were partners in a farming block of about 1000 acres in the Paddysfield area, now known as Totara Downs, Howell's Road being named after him).

As the small townships in South Canterbury began to develop, the need for division of the original pastoral district of Timaru became necessary. Therefore on 24th December 1870 the Bishop licensed Rev. James Preston to the office of Deacon Curate in the district of Temuka and Geraldine which included the wide area along the Opihi and Te Ngawai Rivers and the MacKenzie County. Bishop Harper's diary recorded on 11th May, 1873 "held divine service in the School Room at the Point".

By 1875 the Presbyterian Church had been built and within a year the Church of England had been granted use of the Church for its services. (Mr Ben Howell recalls that his mother was organist at these services). In the same year, Mr Wm. Howell and Mr Edward Acton were appointed Church Wardens by the Bishop and Wm. Halstead, Mark Saunders and James Pilbrow were to be the Vestry in the Point district.

By 1878 continued growth of the Temuka/Geraldine district made further division of the area necessary and so, in that year, Temuka and Geraldine became two separate parochial districts. Rev. Geoffrey Fynes-Clinton, Deacon, was licensed to be Curate missionary to Ven. Archdeacon Harper in the Parochial district of Temuka and Pleasant Point was part of his responsibility. He was licensed to this position on 26th August, 1878; and as Priest in Charge on 9th March of the following year. On 25th March he was instituted to the incumbency of Temuka.

Within two years of a meeting at Pleasant Point to discuss the building of a Church in this district the Church of St. Alban was a reality. The little Church, (situated on the northern corner of Harris and Acton Streets), wooden framed with plaster walls and solid totara beams was consecrated as part of the Parish of Temuka by the Bishop on 2nd October, 1879. The land had been given by the Orton family. The cost of this church is recorded as being £557/14/0; £265/18/8 of this sum had been collected in the district and £68/18/6 in England (Mr Ben Howell recounts that this sum from England was given by the sisters of Mr Wm. Howell still living in England where their father was Dean of Norwich — They had raised this in their parish). £100 was received from Church Property Trustees and £100 from the Bishop of the Diocese.



INTERIOR OF OLD ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH



In the following month, a tea meeting and concert in the Assembly Rooms (presumably our present Brethren Hall) was held to meet current expenses of St. Alban's Church. At this function, 150 persons attended the tea and even more at the concert. (Most of the district must have been present). The Vicar's Warden Mr E. Acton reported that there was still £25 to be received for rent of glebe land and when this was collected the Church would have a balance of £1/3/2 in hand. This, he thought "was a very unusual thing". It was seldom indeed that a Church or even a house was paid for soon after its erection". Receipts from this tea and concert amounted to £20 and were used for payment for "the colouring of the walls and the lighting of the Church".

Rev. J. Chaffers-Welsh became Vicar of Temuka in 1881 and took services at "The Point" as well as at the school at Mt. Gray. On 13th January 1883, Rev. Welsh relinquished the Temuka section of his charge, and arrangements for the new parochial district of Te Ngawai were completed. Two services were to be held in the Parish each Sunday, and Rev. Welsh stated he proposed "to conduct personally one morning and three evening services each month in St. Alban's Church, and the other portions of his wide district would claim the balance of his time". Owing to unsuitable accommodation in the Point, the Vicar took up temporary residence in Timaru pending the erection of a "Parsonage" on the large glebe, but he stated no time was to be lost in proceeding with the work.

The name of the parish stems from the early days when the Te Ngawai River bounding the area was better known than the little township then known as "The Point". In those days the parish area was very wide extending from "The Point" over to the Pareora River and beyond Fairlie into the MacKenzie Country; quite a formidable area to be covered by a Vicar on horseback.

Rev. Welsh relinquished his duties two years later and Rev. Thos. Hamilton was licensed to the temporary cure for the first six months of 1883. On 16th October 1883 the Bishop appointed Lt.-Colonel C. W. Eichbaum to be Church Warden of the new Parish of Te Ngawai.

On 30th December of that year, the nomination of Rev. T. Jasper Smyth was accepted by the Bishop. His institution as the first Vicar of the Parish of Te Ngawai took place on the 30th December. The "Timaru Herald" report of this service states "The Primate has visited the district for the double purpose of inducting the new incumbent and of confirming a number of candidates who have been under preparation for some time. The double event occurred on Sunday. At the morning service, the Apostolic Succession formed the subject of the Bishop's discourse after which he officially inducted the new pastor and Colonel Eichbaum, Church Warden, on behalf of the parishioners accepted and welcomed Rev. Smyth and handed him the keys of the Church. The whole service was very impressive and appropriate. In the evening 11 candidates were presented for confirmation. The Church was densely crowded and a long

address abounding in fatherly counsel was given to the candidates, most of whom were adults."

Rev. Jasper Smyth became a very well known clergyman riding over a big extent of country. He was described as a "sporting parson" as he maintained a number of greyhounds which he took with him on Sundays as he travelled around the parish. They enjoyed the excitement of the chase as they put up hares among the tussocks along the roads!! He remained Vicar of the Parish until 30th April 1892. The following month Rev. T. A. Hamilton was instituted as incumbent, but his time in the parish was very brief as he resigned the following year to take up a position in Ashburton.

On 21st December 1892 the Bishop accepted the nomination of Rev. Stanley Hinson to the cure and on 11th January 1893, Archdeacon Harper instituted him as incumbent; also to the district of Fairlie Creek. During his term as Vicar the Te Ngawai Parish was reduced in size, as, in 1907, Fairlie area was set up as a Parish in its own right. The original Vicarage in Te Ngawai Road was built for him and he did much planting of beautiful trees around the Vicarage. (An old Wellingtonia tree still stands in the grounds today). His term of office was a record for the clergy of the Parish, as he remained Vicar here for 31 years, relinquishing his position in 1924. Older parishioners recall him as being a very seriously minded gentleman, and the local youths used to play lively pranks on him. Several tell the story of the time they harnessed his horse and gig during a service; the horse on one side of the church fence and the gig on the other.

Rev. Duncan McPherson succeeded him as Vicar being instituted



VICARS PRESENT AT GOLDEN JUBILEE, 1929

on 1st May 1924, but his term of office was only three years' duration, when he returned to England. During his term of office the Parish set up a special fund for the purchase of a car for the Vicar's use. Mr C. L. Orbell, Mr A. Watson and Mr and Mrs W. H. Talbot set the list off with each donating £10 towards this fund. The car was handed over to the Vicar for his use while in the Parish, and "in the event of his resigning the car was to be returned in good condition, fair wear and tear excepted". Five cases of petrol were authorised for the Vicar's use if sufficient funds were available. A car "upkeep" fund was started and each of the four districts within the parish were asked to try and raise £10 to that end.

On 4th March 1927 Rev. Chas. Oldham was instituted as Vicar, by Archdeacon J. A. Julius. Many parishioners recall the time he was Vicar. His visits to any home were readily announced before he knocked on the door as he was always whistling as he walked up the garden path.

In 1929, during the weekend of 17th October, St. Alban's Church held big celebrations to mark the golden jubilee of the opening of the Church. On the Saturday after a short Church service, a large number of children and parents gathered in the Domain. On the Sunday an 8 a.m. Holy Communion and 11 a.m. Holy Communion and Matins services were held by Dean Julius, assisted by three former Vicars: Revs. Clinton, Smyth and Hinson. At the service a new Altar of oak was presented by the family of the late Mr and Mrs W. B. Howell in their memory. In the afternoon another service was held at Raincliff and in the evening St. Alban's was again filled to the door. On the Monday a Jubilee Reunion in the Town Hall was held; 400 or more attending. Rev. Clinton when speaking at this function mentioned specially the untiring work done by Howell, Acton and Orton families in the early days of the Church. A special welcome was made to Rev. Jasper Smyth, then 90 years old, who had returned to the parish for the celebration.

Rev. Oldham's term of office was during the depression years. In 1932 at the Annual Meeting much discussion was held on how to reduce the Parish debt, and the Vicar expressed his willingness to take a reduction in Stipend. It was moved that a 10% reduction be made on the Vestry guarantee to the stipend of £200 reducing it to £166. However, finances continued to be a worry, for, in the following year, the Archdeacon appealed to parishioners to urge the adoption of the Envelope System or a more satisfactory method than the existing one of collecting subscriptions annually — Apparently Parish arrears were to the extent of 7 months stipend and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the travelling allowance. At this stage a change of system did not eventuate.

By 1937 general offertories had averaged £115 per year, sufficient to maintain the Church district as a Parish, so it was possible for the Vicar's stipend to be restored to £200.

In November 1938, Rev. Oldham tendered his resignation "owing

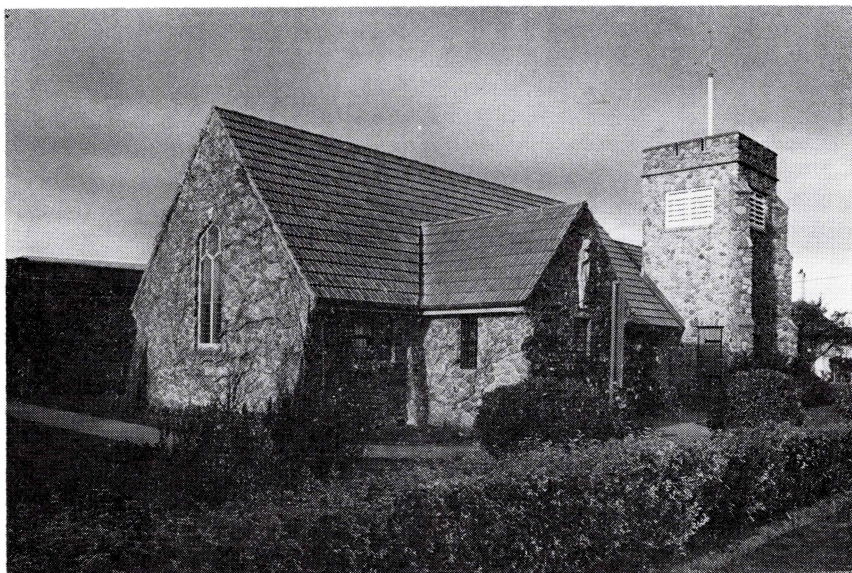


to physical strain and wearying of body and mind due to the motoring necessary to undertake the work of the Parish” and retired to Christchurch. Rev. and Mrs Oldham were the last clergy family to live in the Te Ngawai Road Vicarage.

Rev. Geoffrey Schurr was licensed as Vicar on 3rd November 1939 and was the first Vicar to take up residence in the present Vicarage. In 1941 he was appointed to the rank of Chaplain of the Forces at Burnham Military Camp, and Rev. John Witty was licensed as Priest-in-Charge during the absence of Rev. Schurr. In those years the Parish was working under considerable difficulties: — war conditions with many parishioners in the services overseas. Petrol shortages created travelling difficulties too. Finance continued to be a worry, and the retaining of the status as a Parish was under threat — an extra £22 was necessary for it to be retained.

Rev. Schurr returned to Parish duties in 1943 and continued as Vicar until 1946 when he was appointed to Hokitika.

On 12th December, 1946, Rev. Francis Allen was licensed as Vicar. During his term of office, much energy was devoted to the building of the All Saints Church at Cave, and it was a happy day for him when the foundation stone was laid on 18th November 1952, but unfortunately he had left the Parish before its dedication. Rev. Allen was a clever craftsman in wood, and he made several furnishings for the Churches of the Parish.



ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, PLEASANT POINT



In December 1952 Rev. J. S. H. Perkins took up duties as Vicar. He recalls that much of the five years he spent as Vicar at Te Ngawai Parish was taken up in building operations and in the money raising activities which made them possible. He arrived in the Parish to find the new Church of All Saints already started and the next venture was the new Church of St. Alban. The old Church, which had been only partially built (the east end had never been extended as planned) was now quite incapable of accommodating the larger congregations in a growing community, especially on the great Christian Festivals. A meeting was called at which the parishioners accepted the bold challenge not to enlarge the old St. Alban's, and instead to aim for a completely new structure which would be worthy of its purpose. This necessitated a change of site and gave the Parish the opportunity of bringing Church, Parish Hall and Vicarage together for the first time. Fortunately two vacant sections existed opposite the Vicarage. The Canterbury Education Board exchanged its section for the one beside the old Church, (No. 6 Harris Street) on which the Hall was standing, and Mr R. G. Blakemore generously allowed us to buy the other one from him.

Mr J. A. Hendry was appointed architect and after he had produced the very attractive plan, money for the new Church came in steadily. Mr T. S. Gillies, who had built All Saints, Cave, was the successful tenderer at £6,000. Part of the contract agreement provided for the Parish to supply the river boulders and that became a truly congregational effort. For several Saturdays, young and old scoured the local riverbed for suitable stones and loaded them into the trucks which transported them to the area where the new Parish Church was to be built. The Foundation Stone amidst the heaps of stones was laid on 26th May, 1956, and the ceremony was performed by Rt. Rev. A. K. Warren in the presence of the clergy of South Canterbury and a congregation of about 300. The Bishop commented that this permanent base provided the proof of the parish endeavour and sacrifice over the last two years.

It was a proud day when the work was completed and ready for dedication by Bishop Warren on 25th May 1957. Over 400 people gathered at the service and rejoiced over the provision of a lovely church. A special welcome was extended to the Orton family who had given the land for the old Church, and they had lived where the new Church stands. No small part of the pleasing result was due to the builder, Mr T. S. Gillies, a gifted craftsman in the use of stone.

Many furnishings in the Church have been given as memorial gifts. The carved pulpit was given by Mr D. C. Doake in memory of his parents, Mr and Mrs R. Doake; the font in memory of Mr Wm. Robinson; the brass font ewer in memory of Jeannie Orton, a parishioner for 61 years; the carved oak altar given by the Howell family in memory of Mr and Mrs W. B. Howell. (The family had given the altar in the first St. Alban's Church, but this was too small to meet the needs of

the new church). The carved lectern was given by Alan and Dorothy Talbot in memory of their parents, Mr and Mrs W. H. Talbot. The brass altar book rest was presented in memory of Ellen Ley by her sisters, in 1948. The altar cross was given by Misses A. and I. and Mr D. Oliver; the brass candlesticks by Miss Joan Archer. The oak prayer desk was given in memory of Canon Stephen and Annie Parr by Orm Parr. A Lincoln organ was given by the Roberts family in memory of Joan and Arthur Roberts (they later replaced this with the Hammond organ); the brass alms dish is a memorial to Jane Annie McCormick; the brass vases also used in the old Church were given by Colonel Boyle as a memorial to his wife. The carved hymn board to match the panels of the pulpit was given by the family of Mrs H. W. Stonyer in her memory. The oak seat made by Rev. Allen, given in 1950 for the use of the officiating clergyman, was dedicated as a memorial to the pioneer clergy of the parish. Several of the pews were given as memorials to relatives by parishioners. In the Vestry as a memorial to Mr and Mrs A. H. Roberts is the practical wash-basin and cupboard. The Vestry cupboards were the gift of the three children of the Vicarage at the time the Church was built. A considerable amount of the oregon and macrocarpa timber was a gift from Raincliff and Peel Forest Stations. The Vestry doors into the sanctuary were originally the doors of the old church, as are the altar rails. The lovely big bell was the gift of the Canterbury Frozen Meat Company, and was previously their fire bell at the Pareora Freezing Works. Bob Hammond a member of the parish, skilled in welding fitted the big bell as a gift and did all the iron work on the Church as well as the weather vane. The grounds were artistically landscaped by Mr Ron Wilks, Church Warden at the time the Church was built.

It was during Rev. Perkins term of office that the Parish was involved in the first Stewardship Campaign. The Wells organisation was engaged at what then seemed a very heavy fee to organise the Parish in this — something which was quite different from anything previously experienced — weekly offertories and the Annual Subscription Collections. However, it has been realised that it brought a new concept into responsible giving and assisted Vestry in budgeting.

With Rev. Perkins appointment to Hokitika in January 1958, Rev. T. A. McKenzie was licensed as Vicar on 6th February 1958 and served for two and a half years. He was succeeded by Rev. R. J. Okey, licensed on 28th September, 1960. In the following year St. Alban's Church was consecrated by Rt. Rev. M. L. Wiggins, Bishop of South Victoria, Nyanza on 27th August; a rare occasion for a Church as this is only held when a Church is finally paid for, and when its complete structure is of permanent materials.

In 1962 St. Alban's Ladies' Guild donated a stained glass window for the Eastern window of the Church. This gift greatly enhanced the

sanctuary and overcame the considerable glare caused by the rising sun at 8 a.m. Holy Communion. This window, made by White Friars, England, depicts Our Lord enthroned in the centre panel with St. Alban on the left and St. Paul on the right. Above, the Angels hold the Alpha and Omega signs while below the figures, flow the Rivers of Paradise. This window was unveiled by the President of the Ladies' Guild, Mrs Mary Orbell, on 11th August, 1963.

Rev. Okey was succeeded by Rev. Colin Clark from Australia, licensed as Vicar on 2nd December, 1964. During his time as Vicar, the new Parish Hall was completed — a very happy day for the Parish, as the extensive building programme over the last decade was now complete. Rev. Clark's time of office was brief as he returned to Australia after three years as Vicar.

Rev. Stuart Edwards was licensed on 1st February, 1968. In 1972 an exchange of parish was arranged by him with Rev. J. Riley from St. Nicholas' Parish, Richfield, Minnesota for one year. (Our N.Z. way of life must have appealed as he eventually returned to N.Z. to take up permanent residence in the Diocese).

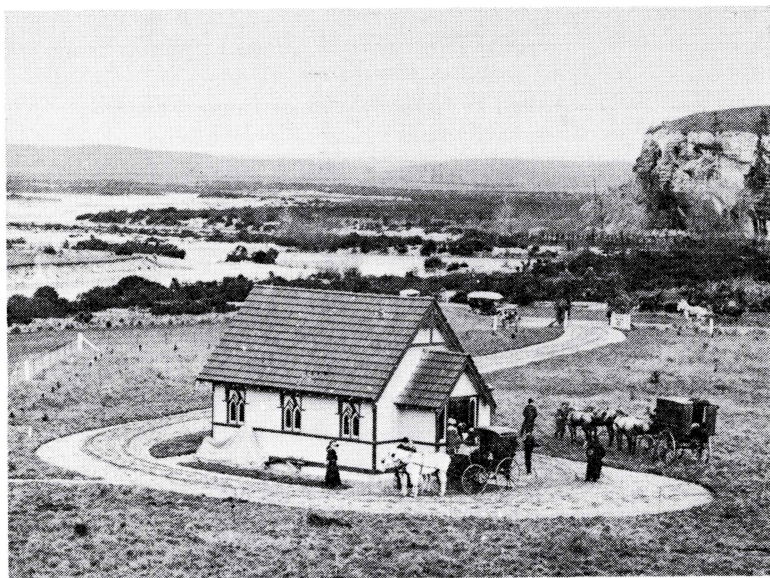
He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Cunliffe from Te Kuiti on 27th April, 1971 who served the Parish as Vicar until his retirement in 1980.

Dr Godfrey Nicholson was licensed as Vicar on 4th July, 1980, his first parish after studying for five years at Nashville University, Tennessee. With his announcement of his appointment as Lecturer in New Testament at St. John's Theological College, Auckland in 1982, a special meeting of parishioners was called in July 1982 after a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to consider the future of the Te Ngawai Parish. To continue as a viable parish it was necessary for weekly Church giving to be doubled. At this well attended meeting parishioners accepted this challenge, and decided to proceed with the calling of a new Vicar, and so Rev. Terry Alve was licensed as Priest-in-Charge in December, 1982.

And so our Parish has completed 100 years. As we look back to those parishioners who have gone before us, we realise what has been achieved through toil and sacrifice.

Let us continue with the same courage and determination as the pioneers faced their future and pass on to our children, a heritage as great as that which we have received. Change there will be, as that is the life of any parish, so let us go forth in faith in our second century of our Parish of Te Ngawai.





ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, RAINCLIFF  
SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION IN 1907

## ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, RAINCLIFF

The Church of St. David, Raincliff, was built in 1907 but the Church life of the district goes back about 25 years before the Church was built. The first services to be held were in 1881 at Mt. Gay in the School. Later, about 1890, the school was moved down the hill, and set up at Hazelburn on the corner of Hazelburn and Monument Road. Services were then held fortnightly and the school served as the centre of the Church life in the district until St. David's was built in 1907. The land on which the Church was built was given by Mr Arthur Hope, the then owner of Raincliff Station. Part of the land was set aside as a graveyard and ample room was provided for tying up of horses and space for buggies, carriages and traps. An early subscription list records the collecting of a sum of £288/3/0 towards the cost of the Church which was estimated to be about £344 including the pews. The original estimate given by Mr J. S. Turnbull, the architect was £250, but attached to the subscription list was the following: — "We have added into Porch, a Vestry, lengthened building 2ft., raised by one more step the altar including two small side lighted windows, at East end; decided to line walls in wood instead of plaster, given more pitch to roof, and at the suggestion of Standing Committee, made slight alterations at a slightly increased cost. We still have the Fete which is to be held in



December at Mrs Wigley's and by which we hope to greatly reduce the amount of £55/17/0 which we still have to make up." The amount must have been found, for in 1907 the Church was completed for the sum of £344. A tiled roof was estimated to cost another £16. (Perhaps the Fete realised more than expected, for a tiled roof was fitted, later replaced with concrete tiles in 1940).

The Church was consecrated by Bishop Julius. The Parish Vicar at the time was Rev. Hinson. The organist for the congregation was Miss Cornwall, governess for the young Hope family.

The furnishings of the Church are almost all given in memory of former parishioners. Mr Aurelius Purnell donated the fine plate and brass eagle lectern in memory of his wife who had died as a young woman at Raincliff Station. The magnificent Communion Plate is amongst the finest in the Diocese.

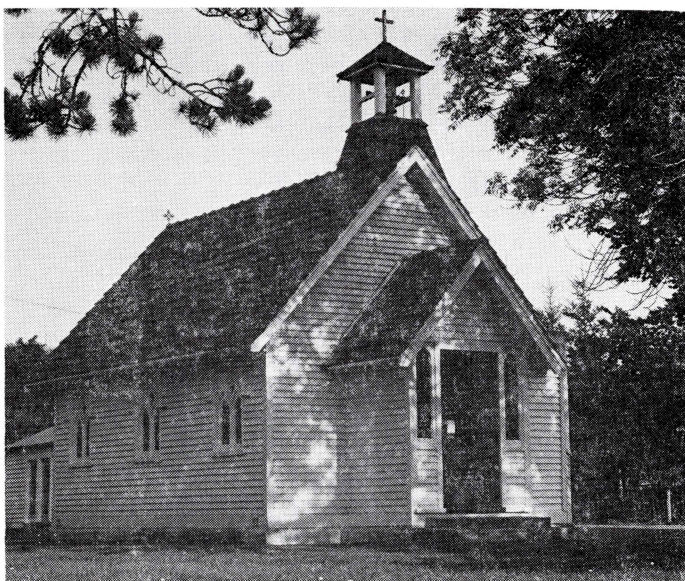
In 1934 a pulpit, bell turret and bell were added to the Church by the Carter family in memory of their parents, Mr and Mrs D. T. Carter of Rockpool, who were associated with the Church from its inception. The handsome carved mahogany altar was given in 1952 in memory of Mr W. H. Talbot, Church Warden and Vestryman for 30 years. The brass candlesticks were also given by the Talbot family, and Mrs Oliver Parr presented a pair of brass vases to complete the furnishings. In 1948 parishioners expressed the wish that an Altar book rest made of jarrah to match other furnishings be made for St. David's as a suitable memorial to Mr C. Ley, who had been a parishioner for 40 years. This was made by Rev. F. Allen, the Vicar of the Parish at this time. The font and Bishop's Chair were the gift of Mr R. T. Richards who was one time manager of Raincliff. The Font is of special interest, as the well was painstakingly carved out of local limestone and is considered unique. The hymn board in carved mahogany was given by Mrs D. Stocker, Surrey, England in 1957 in memory of her parents, Mr and Mrs B. P. Bartrum, original parishioners of St. David where Mr Bartrum served on the Vestry and his wife played the organ for a short time. (They were buried in the Churchyard there, Mrs Bartrum's grave being the first one beside the new Church). In 1968 Marion Curtis, a missionary in the Solomon Islands, presented a wooden cross from the Islands. (The Ladies' Guild of the district had given her much support over the years). In the same year an East window of stained glass was dedicated in memory of Edward and Mary Inman, the second couple married in the Church on 23rd December, 1908.

In 1954 a Ladies' Guild was formed and the first assignment it set itself was to raise funds to replace the Church carpet. It wasn't until 1956 that the Church was wired for electricity. News of this milestone read as follows in the "Harvester". "The bad old days are over. No longer will it be necessary to turn your prayer book around to the window to try and read the psalm on a dull afternoon. What is more

it will be a warm Church too with four electric heaters installed.”

The Golden Jubilee of St. David's was celebrated on 10th March, 1957. The congregation at this service was so great that it had to be relayed to the grounds for those unable to be seated inside. Archdeacon Plaistowe planted a tree in the grounds to commemorate the occasion and then the congregation was entertained at lunch and afternoon tea in the Anglican Youth Hostel (where the new Youth Centre is now situated). A carved oak offertory plate was given by the children of the parish as their part of the 50th Jubilee celebrations.

Over the years many of the old trees in the grounds have had to be felled. Many hours of hard work have gone into clearing broom and scrub and maintaining the graveyard in the extensive grounds, and parishioners of St. David can be justly proud of their little country Church and churchyard steeped in history.



ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, RAINCLIFF





ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, ALBURY

## ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, ALBURY

According to records taken from "St. Columba Church Fairlie Jubilee Booklet", Rev. G. Barclay (Presbyterian) and Rev. Preston (Anglican) alternately held services at Albury in the early days of the district. Anglicans and Presbyterians attended combined services in the local school. Worshippers drove 12 to 14 miles in spring carts and gigs to attend these services. The Albury Presbyterian Church was opened in 1904 and it was 4 years later in 1908, when St. Martin's Anglican Church was consecrated by Archdeacon Julius. The site of the Church was given by Mr Wm. Wreford, and with the enthusiastic support of Mr John Rutherford the money for building was raised. A bazaar was held and this lasted for 3 days. The builder was Mr Thos. Foden of Fairlie.

The first wedding held in St. Martin's was on August 11th, 1907 when Mr Thos. Besley married Miss Mary Jane Wreford. The roof of the church was not quite completed when the wedding took place.

At that time, 2 services were held each month, and this has continued to this day. Rev. Jasper Smyth and Rev. Hinson travelled up by horse and gig to take their services. At the back of the Church was a stable for the horse. When Rev. Oldham arrived he had graduated to a

Model T Ford. In the early days, heating was by kerosene heaters and kerosene lamps were installed also but were seldom used.

Holy Communion was held at 11 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and 2.30 p.m. Evensong on the third Sunday. After H.C. Services the Vicar lunched with the Besley family before proceeding to Cave for 2.30 p.m. Evensong.

In the time of Rev. Perkins Evensong was replaced by Morning Prayers at 9.30 a.m.

On March 2nd, 1958, St. Martin's celebrated its 50th Anniversary; Archdeacon Plaistowe being the preacher. After the service a tree was planted by Mrs M. J. Besley to commemorate the occasion and afternoon tea was served in the Albury Hall.

Rev. S. Edwards and Rev. W. Cunliffe will be remembered for their efforts in bringing Anglicans and Presbyterians closer together by holding Combined Services.

Today, as with Cave, Worship is held alternately in St. Martin's and Albury Presbyterian Church, both denominations joining together in their worship.

Many of the furnishings in the Church have been given by parishioners, some as memorials. Included in these are: in 1928 a pulpit of wood in memory of Mrs Joan Rutherford of Opawa Station.

In 1947 a Church Belfry was added to the Church. This was a gift of Mr and Mrs H. Fisher in memory of their son Jack, killed in action in World War 2. In 1958, a carved lectern was donated by the Guild. In 1966 the sons of Mr and Mrs H. Fisher presented a new Altar in memory of their parents.

The carved Offertory Plate was given by the family of Adelaide Louisa Cox as a memorial to her. The Organ was given by Mrs Edgar Jones, and Mrs H. H. Fisher gave the Altar Rest and Brass Vases.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CAVE

As with other parts of the Te Ngawai Parish, worship in the early days of the Cave district was held in the local school which was situated just west of where the present Church now stands. The local school remained the place of worship for over 70 years.

As early as 1929, Vestry had decided that a fund be set up for building a Church at Cave. The following year, it was moved that £1 be set aside every year from General Church funds towards this building, but nothing further eventuated for some considerable time.

When the Cave School consolidated with Pleasant Point D.H.S. in 1937 it was closed for school purposes and parishioners then considered purchasing the school and making it the Anglican place of





ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, CAVE

worship. Vestry Minutes record that in October, 1940, the Cave Ladies' Guild wrote to the Canterbury Education Board requesting the lease of the building. This negotiation was completed and the following year the Cave Ladies' Guild furnished the School Room with Altar, Altar Rails, Lectern and Prayer Desk and it became known as the Cave Church School Room.

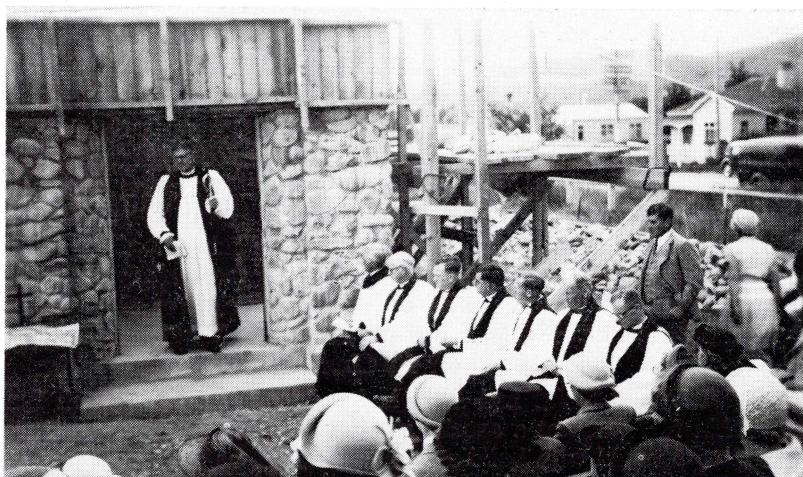
Within a few years it was found inadequate, and there was a possibility of the Education Board requesting the removal of the School buildings to another district for a classroom. Consequently, in July 1943, parishioners held a special meeting at Cave to consider building their own Church. The following year, the Guild set about raising money for this purpose, and they opened a P.O.S.B. Account to be known as the Cave Church Building Account. Canterbury Education Board was contacted to consider sale of a small portion of the eastern end of the School grounds, as it was considered a suitable site for the Anglican Church. Subsequently the land was purchased by Mr G. G. Rich who donated the land to the Parish for the Church site.

By 1949, the Guild had £400 in hand, towards the Church fund and within two years at a special meeting of Cave parishioners it was decided to proceed with building a new Church, as it was realised the Church Room could not be guaranteed as a permanent place of worship, and would soon require costly renovations.

Provisional estimates of cost were £1600 -£1900 for a Church without a tower. It was decided to raise as much money as possible before commencing to build and Cave parishioners undertook this responsibility. Standing Committee offered a free grant of £650 provided the Parish raised an equal amount. It was decided the balance of £1300 be advanced in mortgage. Parishioners agreed to proceed with the erection of the Church and gifts of livestock, money and trees to provide the building timber were made to boost funds.

Within a short time, the architects (Turnbull and Rule, Timaru), sketch plans of a local river boulder Church were approved. Tenders were called for the building of the Church, and after some delay Mr T. S. Gillies' tender of £3478 was accepted in May, 1952. With £1300 in hand it was decided to commence the building and every effort be made to raise additional funds so that the Church could be complete with tower. At a special meeting called to consider the naming of the Church, 26 to 1 voted in favour of All Saints as against the other 5 names submitted for selection.

On 18th November, 1952 before a congregation of 150 visitors and parishioners, Bishop A. K. Warren unveiled the foundation stone; something unique to All Saints, as he was unable to be present at the time it was laid. At this ceremony Bishop Warren said "I would like to think of this Church standing on the side of the road as a silent witness to the faith of the pioneers."



**BISHOP WARREN UNVEILS THE FOUNDATION STONE ALL SAINTS, CAVE,  
18th NOVEMBER, 1952.**



Dedication of the Church was held on 25th July, 1953. Parishioners from many parts of the district were present for the open-air service performed by Bishop Warren. Again he made reference to the pioneers of the district who brought with them faith and hope. "Congregations have grown and now there are little churches such as this all over Canterbury to mark where one or two worshipped God." Rev. Perkins, the Vicar, paid tribute to the late P. W. Rule who designed the Church which would remain as a permanent example of his fine work. The building is mainly constructed of river boulders picked up by parishioners from the Te Ngawai riverbed. Alongside the doorway of the Vestry is a reddish stone which obviously did not originate in being a river boulder — It was once part of the British House of Commons and after that historic building had been bombed this stone was secured by Mrs Rich's father, Major Johnson for including in the new Church. All Saints has two stained glass windows, gifts to the Church. Inset in the eastern window is a beautiful stained glass window presented in memory of Mr and Mrs Alfred Aymes by their son Alfred Cuthbert and a daughter Constance Sylvia (Mrs A. Baker). Below the window are two candlesticks given by Miss Nancy Howell. Near the entrance on the west side of the Church is a stained window presented by Mr and Mrs P. Elworthy in memory of their daughter Janet. Some of the pews were also presented by parishioners as memorials. The Cave Ladies' Guild gave Altar Rails and Carpet, and the Altar was given by the E. Kerr family. The Bishop's Chair was made by Rev. F. Allen who was Vicar when the Church was commenced, later had a plaque attached in memory of his wife. The bell is the one that stood in the original St. Alban's Church at Pleasant Point. Mr Gillies, the builder, presented an oak desk for the Vestry. This gift, he had made from timber milled in Pleasant Point from an oak tree that had grown in the original Vicarage grounds in Te Ngawai Road. The Communion Set comprising a very handsome Chalice and Paten, also a bread box and cruets was the property of the late Rev. E. Malden and was used by him in France during the First World War. Through the generosity of Mrs Malden, the Guild was able to acquire this beautiful and historic set with its carrying case for £10. (Rev. Malden had relieved in the parish in the interim period of the vacancy created when Rev. Schurr moved to Hokitika). The Altar Cross was presented by Mrs Baker in memory of her son, Osmond, killed in action when on service in the Navy. The Font was given by the family of James and Annie Graham in memory of their parents, and by coincidence the first baby baptised in the Church was the infant of a grandson Eric Graham.

In 1961 an Office Book and a pair of very old markers were sent to All Saints from the Vicar of South Cave Church, East York, England, to act as a link with England.

The Church grounds were planted by Mr Ron Wilks, then Church



Warden; the trees and shrubs being the gift of the S.C. Tree Planting Association. An attractive stone fence along the frontage, with iron gates given by Mr and Mrs C. Leslie, completed the landscaping of this attractive church.

Consecration of the Church took place on 5th November, 1958. In 1970 the sanctuary of the Church was extended and the altar moved to a free standing position.

Today, worship is held fortnightly in All Saints, and on alternate Sundays parishioners join with the Presbyterians in worship at St. David's.

## PARISH HALL

Up until 1946, the Parish had been without a Hall for Sunday School and social functions. Venues for the Annual Meeting of the Parish were many and varied: the "Technical Institute" which was the school's old manual block (destroyed by fire in 1932); the supper room of the Public Hall; Bowman's Bakery Rooms (where Pyne's is now situated); and the ordinary Vestry meetings were always in the Vicarage. Sunday School was held in the old Church, half an hour before, on Family Service Sunday, and at 10 o'clock on 8 a.m. Holy Communion Service Sundays.

Mention of the need for a Parish Hall was made as early as 1926 at the Annual Meeting and a Special Meeting was to be called at an early date but nothing eventuated for another 20 years. In 1946 at the Annual Meeting, Mrs Schurr drew Vestry's attention to the great need for a suitable room for Sunday School work. Parishioners were made aware of the difficulties under which Sunday School teachers were working, each class being held in the church at the same time, and one class was fitted into the tiny Vestry room. Besides the need for a suitable room for meetings, social gatherings and work amongst the adolescents was also stressed.

In February 1948, the Vicar reported that the Albury I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall had been offered for sale by tender. In view of the suitability of this building for use as a Sunday School and Parish Hall, and acting under instructions from previous Parish meetings, the architects Turnbull and Rule, were requested to report on the conditions and value of the building and to estimate the cost of removal. Following their report the Vestry submitted a tender of £335 for the building and this offer was accepted. The Pleasant Point Ladies' Guild donated the first £200 and a further £400 was estimated as being required to allow for removal costs, etc. It was decided to make an appeal to all parishioners

for this required amount as members of the Vestry did not wish to raise a mortgage. The building was duly moved and sited on the township side of the old Church (now 6 Harris Street), as near as possible to the Church and with the main door facing the same way as the Church door on to Harris Street. When inspected by C.P.T. the inspector reported that the Parish had a very good bargain, worth at least £800 when erected. The dedication of this building took place on 17th September, 1948. The official opening took the form of a Thanksgiving Service in the Church followed by the dedication of the Hall, and a social gathering afterwards spent in games, community singing and dancing. It was soon put to good use.

An Indoor Sports Club for the teenagers was formed and many happy hours were spent playing table tennis, darts and quoits.

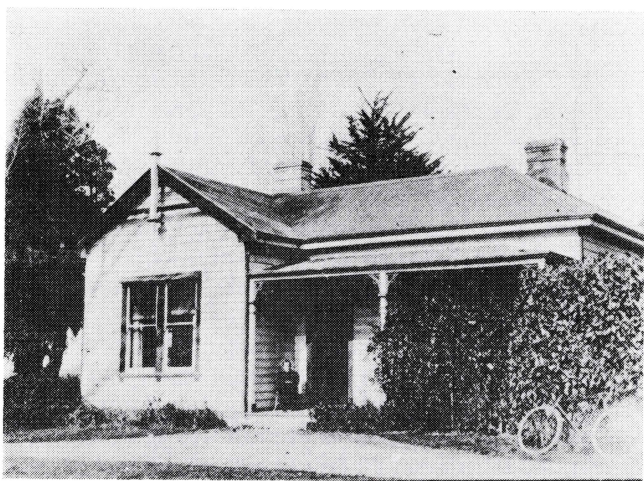
At the Annual Meeting 1949, the acquiring of the Parish Hall was recorded as being "the most notable event of the year. Being completely free from debt, the Parish could be justifiably proud of this praiseworthy effort." It became the centre for fellowship for both young and old.

Negotiations with the Canterbury Education Board for exchange of sections when the new St. Alban's was to be built necessitated another resiting of the Hall, as the Board requested the Harris Street section for building purposes. The Hall was then moved to Munro Street, sited alongside the new Church.

By 1960, Vestry was giving serious consideration to a new Parish Hall. About this time, the Public School was short of classrooms and made application to the Vestry for the use of the Hall as a classroom for six months in 1962. The Vestry had met a similar request in 1949 when a class had been forced to work in a school cloak room.

In 1964 the Vestry approved plans to build a new Parish Hall, and the old Hall was offered to the Marchweil Parish for its use. Sketch plans were drawn up by J. Hendry, and T. Gillies' tender of £12,036 was accepted. A Government subsidy of £3,000 was approved, a condition being that the building be available for community Youth activities. On 12th March 1967, Bishop Pyatt dedicated the Hall and it has been in constant use ever since. Equipped with a modern kitchenette, a meeting room and a Parish Office, it has been used for a great variety of functions. Outside organisations as well as the Church have found it a suitable venue for monthly meetings. Indoor Bowls Club uses it regularly in the winter months. Play Centre functions there twice weekly. The occasional wedding reception has been held there too, and parishioners recall the Annual Church Ball held when Stuart Edwards was Vicar. Sunday School (later changed to Friday School) pupils and teachers, have been appreciative of this hall in contrast to the old hall. Youth Clubs over the years have functioned there too.

St. Alban's Parish can feel justly proud of all their attractive buildings so conveniently sited in the township.



ORIGINAL VICARAGE, TE NGAWAI ROAD

## THE VICARAGE

The first Vicarage which was situated at 31 Te Ngawai Road is still standing today, but over the years it has been extensively renovated and its surrounds cleared of the many trees. It was built soon after Rev. Jasper Smyth took up charge as Vicar. It was the traditional L-shaped wooden residence of its day with the fashionable verandah of the day overhanging the bedrooms. It was set amongst lovely old trees planted by Rev. Stanley Hinson on approximately 3 acres of land. Mrs Oldham in her article contributed for this magazine, recalls life in that Vicarage; the Oldham family being the last occupants at a Vicarage.

When they left the district in 1938 the Vestry gave serious consideration to the building of a new Vicarage behind the old Church, and they began canvassing parishioners for funds. By June 1940 over £500 was in hand. About this time the local doctor's residence became vacant, and the Vestry decided in favour of purchasing this home as it was considered suitable and ideally situated for a Vicarage. £1500 was accepted by the Benham family for the home, and the old Vicarage was leased. Two parishioners lent the balance of money required for the purchase. Later, the Vestry sought permission to sell the Old Vicarage and the 3 acres of land, and to use the proceeds for the reduction of the mortgage on the new Vicarage. However at this stage, Church Property Trustees would not grant this, and the parish was again canvassed to reduce the mortgage debt by a further £500. Four years later, the tenant of the old Vicarage was given the opportunity to make a private offer to purchase the property; £565, the Government Valuation price, being considered a basis for negotiation. The sale was not completed until 1946, and with the proceeds of the sale, £100 was invested by Church



Property Trustees, and interest paid annually to the Parish for the upkeep of the new Vicarage. The receipts from the proceeds of the old Vicarage, with an additional £30 raised by special appeal, the debt on the new Vicarage was cleared.

The following year the adjoining section to the Vicarage was offered to the Vestry for sale by Mr R. J. Murphy for the sum of £50. As it was considered this section would add value to the Vicarage and its amenities, the Vestry decided to purchase it.

Over the years renovations to the Vicarage have included a 40 sq. ft. extension to the eastern wall of the kitchen area; central heating in the days of cheap oil in the late 1960's was installed, but of recent times with high fuel prices this became a financial embarrassment to the occupants, and so a wood and coal burner was installed in the living area for heating.

As with all residences, inflation has brought with it increased costs in maintenance, so much so that in 1980 a special meeting of parishioners was held to give serious consideration to the building of a new Vicarage on the adjoining section, and the selling of the present one. This was strongly outvoted, and an all out effort was made, by a "stock-drive" and a general appeal for further funds for maintenance of and up-dating of the Vicarage was set up.

Today, with our Church, Parish Hall and Vicarage attractively set in a compact unit of Harris and Munro Streets, parishioners must feel justly proud of their property.



PRESENT VICARAGE, TE NGAWAI PARISH

## REMINISCENCES

MRS OLDHAM recalls life in the old vicarage 1927-1938:

Life in a country vicarage fifty-six years ago was very different from what it is today. When my husband and I, with one small boy aged one and a half, arrived at Pleasant Point we had travelled by train from Christchurch and the local train to Fairlie. At Pleasant Point we were met by the Vicar's Warden — Mr Probert the local chemist — and the Parish car, a five seater Ford, in which we arrived at the Vicarage on the Te Ngawai Road. It was the old traditional house — long passage from the front door to the bathroom — drawing room and three bedrooms on one side — diningroom, kitchen, scullery and another bedroom on the other.

For lighting we depended on kerosene lamps and candles, plus a bright, hanging lamp lent by Mr Probert. Within the year electricity was installed, but for cooking and hot water and warmth in the kitchen we had the old fashioned coal range. The telephone was in the scullery and one had to contact the Post Office before being connected by ringing a bell. For water we depended on an old windmill — which had to be primed whenever the wind got up, sometimes even in the middle of the night. To do our washing we boiled the copper and later when washing machines became more common, one was brought tied on to the running board of an old car each week by its owner to do our washing.

On Monday morning the grocer called for the order, which was delivered later in the week. The butcher called once a week, the baker delivered the bread several times a week, milk was delivered daily in a billy — those were the days!

For some years we collected the mail from the Post Office after the train came in — later it was delivered.

Sale day on alternate Mondays was a busy day with people from the country calling at the Vicarage; from mid-morning a continual stream of visitors appeared — filling in time while their husbands attended the sale — which in those days was a big one. Being the centre of the Parish the Vicarage was open house and never did the visitors come empty handed. We had food to last for days after they departed. As Sale Day was on a Monday, on the Sunday before we had to take into account that there would be delays on the road with mobs of sheep, especially on the Te Ngawai Bridge when we were on the way to Raincliff. We just had to wait as they ambled their way across. The roads were not tar-sealed and some of the side roads were very bumpy. Much later the road between Pleasant Point and Cave was tar-sealed — later as far as Albury.

Vestry meetings, Ladies' Guild and Mother's Union (A.A.W.) were all held at the Vicarage. Visiting clergy and representatives of Diocesan

organisations, including Sunday School organisers, made it their centre for the Parish. Bishop West-Watson spent the night on a number of occasions on his visits to South Canterbury.

During our stay at Pleasant Point the 50th Anniversary of St. Alban's Church (the original building) was celebrated. We had for the occasion the Rev. Jasper Smyth, the Rev. Fines-Clinton and the Rev. Stanley Hinson — the Rev. McPherson who had preceded us had returned to England. As the Vicar's wife I had a very easy time, having my second son only about a fortnight before. His christening cake was the second tier of the Jubilee cake.

It is said that when one is old it is the happy times of life that one remembers. Of course, we had our ups and downs at Pleasant Point — including the slump — but looking back it was a good time in my life — I have many happy memories of our time there. It is with joy that I see the same names appearing in the *Te Ngawai* magazine — some second and third generations carrying on the work in the Parish. May God bless you in the years that lie ahead.

EILEEN SHIRLEY (nee SCHURR), daughter of REV. SCHURR recalls:

When we transferred from Westport in 1939, I was the only member of the family to come with our parents; my eldest brother serving with the Navy, the youngest waiting to go overseas to join the Fleet Air Arm, hence I was the fortunate one to call Point my home — a much smaller township in those days, roads not sealed after Cave, elsewhere gravel, petrol rationed. The great excitement of the day was, of course "The Fairlie Flyer".

The Vicarage had been recently purchased from Dr Benham and we were its first occupants. What a charming and delightful home it was — In those days there was no flush toilet, but the "usual arrangements" on the back porch with lovely honeysuckle growing up the trellis. Tanks were used for storing water from a well with an electric pump.

St. Alban's was then situated further north in Harris Street; a plaster building, not particularly attractive outside, but delightful inside. I remember Father designed the wrought iron Communion rails; Miss Alice Roberts played the harmonium; and a small choir consisting mainly of the Roberts family. When necessary, Father who was a talented musician, would play the organ. A lot of travelling was involved each Sunday, and after a hasty breakfast, Father would set off to take services in the country. He was always home to take Evensong, and usually some members of the congregation came for supper.

In those days we wore hats and gloves to Church and one lady parishioner, who, if she did not care for the hat Mother wore, wrote her a brief note telling her so! The first note was rather a shock. After-



noon teas were still a social function and visiting cards left.

In 1941 Father was in Burnham Camp prior to overseas duty. For a few weeks Rev. Oldham came down from Christchurch to take services, and it was my privilege to drive him to the country churches. Rev. Witty was appointed locum staying at the Vicarage. At that stage we owned a large English sheepdog "Bobs". He went everywhere in Mr Witty's car and finally became his dog.

To his disappointment Father was declared unfit to go overseas, and he returned to Te Ngawai where both Mother and he were so happy. It was a great wrench to leave in 1947 and move to Hokitika.

REV. F. ALLEN recalls:

My wife and I came South from the Bay of Islands Parish, to South Canterbury in 1946. It was something of a venture into the unknown as I had never been in the South Island and my wife, only as a child.

We never regretted it and I look back on our years in Te Ngawai Parish (1946-52) as the happiest of our time in the Ministry. We met such kindness and cooperation, far beyond our expectations.

The chief event during those six years was the building of the Church at Cave. It was decided by a meeting of Cave parishioners to build it from boulders from the Te Ngawai riverbed. Of course we had to strike the morning of the hardest frost of the year for our working bee. The boulders about the size of a basketball were well and truly frozen in, so we had to divide the party into 3: first group with picks to prize out the boulders; second to throw them in windrows and third to heave them on to the truck. My fingers still tingle with cold when I think of that job. We received great generosity. Charlie Cook provided a big truck; the timber for the roof was donated from a farm at Ma Waro and sawn free of charge by Cook's. We were also very fortunate in the donation of 2 stained glass windows. My own donation was the Bishop's Chair which I made out of Australian Red Gum — very hard wood and I hope St. Peter will overlook some of the naughty words I used trying to saw it!

We had no wish to leave Te Ngawai, but the Bishop insisted. Perhaps he thought as an ex-"cow-cockie" I might be able to understand some of the problems that are encountered on the Peninsula.

REV. J. PERKINS recalls:

As I hazily look back over the years which have gone by, there are a few things which stand out. I cannot forget the women who were so constant in their fund-raising for the building of the new churches. They catered at the Ewes Fairs. They baked cakes, and sewed aprons and children's clothing, and each week sat beside a street stall and sold them.

A wonderful effort, and an inspiration to many of us.

I think of the fine choirs we had at St. Alban's. Members of the Roberts family were the backbone of the senior choir. They were a very musical family, and old Granny Roberts sang there amongst her sons and daughters-in-law and her grand-children, although she was approaching 80 years. Another daughter, Mrs H. Fort played the organ and later her place was taken by another daughter, Mrs F. Turner. The junior choirs was made up of girls of primary and secondary school age who sang at Family Services and on certain special occasions. They were very loyal and dependable.

At Raincliff, I remember the splendid congregations. Almost everyone in the Raincliff district came to church and the little building was uncomfortably full in the summer days. Raincliff parishioners had a very touching custom at Christmas. Each family secretly brought a gift for the Vicarage, and during the service the collected gifts were placed in the Vicar's car as a gift from the congregation to the Vicarage family. It was a kindly gesture which meant so much in those days, and the memory of which remains fragrant so many years afterwards. For some years, bees had swarmed in St. David's, and in those days no one was able to dislodge them. On sunny days, to go from one's car to the Church meant putting down one's head and just running for it, often with a bee or two buzzing around the ears. We used to cheer each other along in this Sunday hazard.

Albury congregation was a very kindly one, but somewhat conservative. The old-fashioned custom of singing "Amen" at the end of a hymn (almost never found today) was obviously meaningless, and so I suggested to each congregation that we discontinue it. Maybe we were just a little ahead of our time because one or two parishioners in Albury were quite put out by the decision. One of them was so sure that hymns were incomplete without it that when the ending came to any hymn he just stood there, and, quite alone, said "Amen". He was still doing that when the time came for me to leave the parish.

#### REV. ALAN McKENZIE — A Time Too Short:

South Canterbury is a beautiful part to live in and we look back on our time in the Parish of Te Ngawai with a great deal of joy and nostalgia. We consider that we had the best of both worlds being close to the city of Timaru and also to all the beauty and scenic spots of that part of Canterbury. Travelling as Vicar through the Down Country, with panoramic vistas of the mountains greeting you at all points, is certainly something to enjoy and remember.

Te Ngawai, to me, was a parish which had a wealth of lay people, who were not only prepared to work hard for the Church and the Christian Gospel, but who also took a prominent part in the life of

their communities and the affairs of South Canterbury. The strength of the parish was in its lay witness and involvement. In a time of tentative relationships with other Churches Te Ngawai people were foremost in breaking down barriers between denominations and endeavouring to foster a common witness.

Harris Sreet was such a friendly and concerned one. It was grand to live in a place where the neighbours were friends. Especially was this important in a home with young children.

From a family perspective there are so many vivid memories. The time when two small boys decided to "paint" the Vicarage, having found in the garage the left-over paints from the professional job. They were stirred to great efforts after seeing naval sailors in Timaru painting their ship. So primrose on teal painted doors, teal paint on white walls became the order of the day. Hands and sticks make great improvised paint brushes and the intensity of the work didn't take into account paint on faces, in their hair or over their clothes. It didn't really matter in such an absorbing occupation that a few of the Vestry were making an inspection that morning. . . . Neighbours are wonderful people when they help you clean up the mess!!!

Pleasant Point has special memories for us to three of our children. It was where Alastair was born, John, the eldest started school and Kathryn, our only daughter, started her walking career!!!

As we think back on Te Ngawai Parish, of our friends there (who are still friends today) of the things that we learned early in Parish Ministry, and the beauty of the area we can only say with the Psalmist "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." Psalm 16:6 RSV. It was a time too short!

REV. STUART EDWARDS recalls:

My memories of events at Te Ngawai '68-73 include: Parish Planning Conference July '68 led by John Mullane, the then Director of Board of Christian Education. At this conference we thought about strengths and weaknesses of the Parish and the outcome of these discussions determined many of the areas we developed during my ministry. Interview '69 saw 40 groups, throughout the parish area, involved in meeting and discussion as part of a nationwide programme of looking ahead into the 70s. Parish wise: we started the Children's Corner as an important part of "The Harvester". We had some great Men's Evenings e.g. 120 men came out to hear "George Falloon meet the Dean (Michael Underhill). The Parish Balls were a popular social event along with parish concerts, etc. We commenced the Combined (R.C., Presbyterian, Anglican) Lenten Services. Other co-operation, planning, etc. developed alongside these, especially between Anglican and Presbyterian Parishes. The fruits of these are evident today. We had a great "Harvest Home"



at Opuha. 28th July '69 saw a special Marriage Thanksgiving Service and Reception: Bishop Pyatt preached and Mr Edgar Bradley of Timaru presided as Toastmaster at the Reception. 120 people attended (more were expected but prevalent 'flu took its toll). We started the Annual Garden Party — initially as a social event and raising a small amount to give away; in the beginning this money went to the support of the Chaplain at Twizel. Since then the Garden Party has "grown" and with it the size of the "fund-raising". The Parish was actively involved in both the planning and building of the Raincliff Camp and Conference Centre. These facilities have benefited many since they were opened. An exciting and beneficial experience to parish and people was the exchange between the Riley and Edwards' families in the U.S.A./N.Z. experience.

REV. RILEY recalls:

I remember a parish who so took the Riley family to their hearts that we wanted to come back to N.Z. to live. He also recalls his Christmas Day in the parish "when I went to all 4 churches, and that last lap between Raincliff and Albury across Bowker's farm and down a steep sheep track being rather hair-raising. Tom Sutherland was waiting at the door; sure I was late and him with a full church. At Raincliff that morning it was so hot we took the pews outside and all sat under the trees outside. Mr Quantock sat in the Bishop's Chair.

We remember all the kindnesses shown to us, especially those first few days in August 1972 when new faces would appear at the door with N.Z. goodies."

REV. BILL CUNLIFFE recalls: Towards Co-operation:

About the time I arrived in Pleasant Point as Vicar of Te Ngawai (1974), the Plan for Union was much to the forefront.

A Parish Council met and planned co-operative efforts between the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. The Rev. J. van Royen and later the Rev. Winston Marshall and I met regularly each week for prayer and planning of our Parish Programmes.

We found the Plan for Union difficult to implement in practice but we made sure there was no overlapping in our work and were able to do many things together. One occasion remains vivid in memory — a combined Communion Service at Raincliff Camp. Mr Marshall and I celebrated Communion together and were assisted in the administration of the Sacred Elements by two Anglican laymen and two Presbyterian laymen. The large combined congregation had seated themselves on rugs on the lawn in front of the Camp building.

Then there was the combined Parish Mission led by the Rev. John Brook, a Presbyterian Minister and Mrs Margo Greenway an Anglican assisting. Discussion Groups and Family Teas were held in all parts of

the Parish. Apart from the Combined Lenten Services the three Clergy of the town took an active part in the Senior Citizen's Association which meets monthly in the Kerry Hall. A step forward was the introduction of "Meals on Wheels" to Pleasant Point.

In the latter part of my ministry a monthly service was held for the Healing of the Sick.

It must have been a sad day for those for whom the old St. Alban's had happy associations to see it demolished in 1981. But we are most fortunate to have now such a beautiful place of worship in a delightful setting.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS** Religious instruction to the children by means of Sunday School has taken place in all 4 corners of the parish over the years.

In *Pleasant Point* it was first set up by Mrs Oldham, assisted by Miss Kime, and later by Mrs Jones and her daughter Lucy. In the War years a lunch hour class was held at the P.P.D.H.S. to reach out to the children unable to travel to classes on Sundays. Time has brought many changes and now classes are held on a Friday after school.

*St. Martin's* was started during the ministry of Rev. C. C. Oldham in 1936, the first teachers being Misses Molly and Joyce Besley. Classes were held every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Church. Later it was held at the home of Mrs Pearce. In the late 50's it was decided to build a Sunday School Hall, and this was opened on September 18th, 1961. Classes continued until Church Services combined with the Presbyterians, and so too the Sunday School. Mrs C. Guthrie gave much time to spiritual teaching, but when she left the district in 1980 classes were discontinued.

*St. David's.* Over the years children attended classes in the Church, held on alternate Sundays when there was no Church Service. In 1960 with an increasing roll of children it was found necessary to purchase a two roomed cottage from Temuka. This was converted into a suitable Sunday Schoolroom. Classes continued here until Church Services combined with the Presbyterians. Classes were then disbanded and recently the Hall has been sold and removed.

*All Saints.* Children in this area joined with the children of St. David's Presbyterian Church and attended classes in their Sunday School Room.

## WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

*Mother's Union* was set up in the Parish soon after the Oldham family arrived in the Vicarage. Mrs Oldham lead monthly meetings in the Vicarage. Membership was small with about 9 foundation members. In those days it was not easy to get guest speakers; occasionally they would join with members of Temuka parish. Once a year they went to St. Mary's Church, Timaru, to attend the Archdeaconary Festival. In

1957 they purchased the attractive banner that stands in the sanctuary of St. Alban's. This was always carried in the ceremony of the Annual Festival.

As years went by and foundation members grew older, a need was felt amongst young mothers for a separate organisation to meet their interests, and so a *Young Wives Group* under the leadership of Pam McKenzie, (the Vicar's wife) was formed in 1957.

With the changing role of women in society so too has come the changes in these organisations, which became defunct and the *Association of Anglican Women* was formed in 1970. In the Parish an afternoon group meets monthly, as does the evening group, which caters for the working wife and young mother.

**LADIES' GUILDS** As one reads the minutes of the Ladies' Guilds meetings, the mind boggles at all their efforts in fund raising for the Parish.

*St. Alban's Guild* must have been inaugurated early in the Parish's history. So often it was the Guild which came to the rescue of the Vestry when it was financially embarrassed, be it for maintenance of the Church, the Vicarage, Church furnishings, fencing, paths, etc, the Guild helped out. Superb efforts were made to raise funds for our present St. Alban's Church when building plans were underway. Sale catering, Shop days in Timaru, Street stalls, Annual Summer Flower Show, May Fair, all contributed to augmenting funds by raising £1152 towards the Building Fund in 1955. In 1973 it was decided to terminate the activities of the Ladies' Guild as, with the change of women's organisations in the Diocese it was felt that it would amalgamate with A.A.W.

*St. Martin's* was first held on 16th June, 1953, eleven members forming the group. The group undertook the roster for church cleaning, floral arrangements for Church services. Since its inception it has contributed much to the Church — Improvements to the interior of the Church and its surroundings, and to the Sunday School in supplying furniture, crockery and furnishings. Shop days and Coffee mornings with Bring and Buy Stalls have been the main source of fund-raising. Donations have been made to The Parish Hall, Vicarage and Raincliff

*All Saints Guild* was first formed in 1940 at the home of Mrs Kerr. Mrs A. E. Kerr was the first President and Mrs G. Rich Secretary/Treasurer. This Guild can claim having raised much of the money needed for the building of the Church. By holding an Annual Flower Show, Bring and Buy Stalls, etc., the members worked enthusiastically in all their efforts to raise sufficient money to build the present church. As with other Guilds, they have also undertaken responsibility of the care of the Church and its furnishings, Mission Funds and Parish Funds.



*St. David's Guild* was first formed in September 1950, when 9 members met at the home of Mrs A. Milne at a meeting convened by Mrs O. G. Parr. The first project the Guild undertook was to raise funds for carpeting St. David's Church. Fellowship has always played a big part in the meetings, and this has been often shared with St. Paul's Presbyterian Women, and other organisations in the Parish. Since its inception members have always supplied a Christmas hamper for the Vicarage family, as well as for the Taylor family in the 15 years they were sponsored as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. In 1958 Marion Curtis, a nursing missionary at Fauabu, Solomon Islands, was adopted by the Guild. Over the years she has been supported both by monetary and practical gifts to help her in her work in various mission fields. Donations have been made to The Parish Hall, Vicarages and Raincliff Youth Camp. Hospitality has been given to Glenwood and Senior Citizens from Timaru. Sales Tables at each meeting have provided funds for mission work and local needs. As with the other Guilds, St. David's has contributed substantially at the Annual Parish Garden Party fund-raising venture.

## HERE and THERE

In the last decade we have prided ourselves in the co-operative worship between the Presbyterians and Anglicans that has taken place; shared Vestry and Board of Managers meetings; co-operative Planning Council; Combined Church Newsletter, but a century ago it is reported in the "Timaru Herald" at the time the Te Ngawai Parish was established "The Union Weekly Services conducted by Revs. Welsh and McLennan have been very well attended, and an attempt will probably be made to get some neutral ground upon which to meet. Hitherto, the Rev. McLennan kindly placed his Church at the disposal of all who chose to meet for worship in a thoroughly sectarian way."

oOo

The Church Newsletter formerly entitled "The Harvester" was started by Rev. Witty in 1941, there being 6 publications a year. He felt it was a means of reaching out to non-Church going members of the Parish. In 1947 it cost £1 an issue to publish and the cost was met by voluntary subscription. With increased printing costs, in 1961, the Vestry voted in favour of purchasing a duplicator and doing its own printing. In 1972 it became a shared publication with the Presbyterian Church and was entitled "The Messenger".

oOo

Children were not allowed to attend the Carol Service in 1947 owing to an Infantile Paralysis Epidemic. This was the first year the Church had conducted "Nine Lessons and Carols Service".

Produce from Harvest Thanksgiving over the years has been distributed to many different charitable institutions, but possibly in the late 1940's gifts from Harvest Thanksgiving to Leyton Parish, East London, were the most distinct Non-perishable produce was boxed up and shipped as gifts for Christmas for the "bed-ridden and the elderly who had suffered during the bombing of London in the War years."

oOo

In years gone by the Easter Day offertory was a personal gift to the Vicar. In 1957 the Diocese moved that this be discontinued as it was felt that too great a disparity was developing from one Parish to another.

oOo

Rev. Stanley Hinson was the founder of our local Masonic Lodge.

oOo

With our Weekly Stock Sales at Pleasant Point a thing of the past, we are inclined to forget what an influence they had on life in the district. In the 1920's Vestry meetings were held on a Monday afternoon, Sale Day, during the Winter. Sale Day was a great fund raising source for the organisations of the district after the local tearooms withdrew its catering contract. The Ladies' Guild raised much money by catering on a roster basis.

oOo

Our local Indoor Bowling Team had its origins as a Club organised and controlled by St. Alban's Church.

oOo

In 1947 at Synod, a Special Clause had to be introduced to the Financial Regulations Bill to safeguard the parish being reduced to a parochial district. The matter hinged on Parochial endowments and Te Ngawai Parish had the second largest in the Diocese.

oOo

Within the century of the Parish only one family has had three generations serving on the Vestry namely the Talbot family:

Mr W. H. Talbot,

his son, Alan D.,

and his grandson, John, is on the present Vestry.

oOo

In the 1940's a "Lantern Service" was always very well attended as part of the Easter Services, held on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Slides of the Lord's Passion were shown at this evening.

Our Parish is proud of its three parishioners who have taken Holy Orders:

Late Canon Stephen Parr originally a parishioner of St. David's, who became Principal of the Theological Hall, College House;

Canon Phillip Baker, St. Michael's, Christchurch, and

Canon Gerald Baker, St. Mary's, Karori, from the Cave Parish.

In the Mission Field, Jenny Carter from St. David's is at present serving with SAMS at Temuco, Chile.

oOo

After Canon Parr's death, his wife presented his cassock and surplice to be used by servers in the Parish.

oOo

At the Ecclestial Exhibition held in Christchurch, in connection with the Province's Centennial Celebrations, St. David's lent its beautiful Communion Set.

oOo

In 1950 the Diocese set up a Centennial Fund to mark 100 years of Church life and all Churches were "put on their honour" not to start new efforts to raise funds for their own parochial purposes. £680 was set up as Te Ngawai's quota. Money raised for this fund was spent on building Church Halls in new housing areas. The Parish also made gifts of disused furnishings which had been replaced by new memorial gifts of furnishings.

oOo

When the Perkins family came to the Vicarage it was the first time there had been small children in the present Vicarage, and so a request was made to fit the upstairs windows with chains

oOo

Amusing incidents in the Parish have been recalled. The present Vicar's Mother recalls the day of Mark's baptism. When the Vicar went to put the sign of the Cross on the baby's forehead, Raewyn sobbed out "I don't want my hair washed, Mummy did it yesterday."

oOo

In 1935 rental of Glebe land 20 acres amounted to £10. Much of this was rented by Stock Firms for use as holding paddocks for the Stock Sales. In recent years parishioners with voluntary labour have utilized some of the land by cropping to augment Church Funds.



Then there was the day of panic when St. Alban's was consecrated — Bishop Wiggins had left his case, containing his robes in Christ-church. He was duly attired in Presbyterian vestments !

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In 1964 after 43 years of 8 a.m. Holy Communion and 7 p.m. Evening at St. Alban's, they were replaced by a 9.30 a.m. N.Z. Liturgy Service.

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VICARS who have served in the Parish are:

1879-1882	Rev. Fynes-Clinton	1882	Rev. Chaffers-Welsh
	(As part of the Temuka Parish)		
1883-1892	Rev. Jasper Smyth	1952-1958	Rev. J. Perkins
1892	Rev. T. A. Hamilton	1958-1960	Rev. A. McKenzie
1892-1924	Rev. Stanley Hinson	1960-1968	Rev. R. Okey <i>1964-1967 Rev. C. Clark</i>
1924-1927	Rev. Duncan MacPherson	1968-1973	Rev. S. Edwards
1927-1939	Rev. Chas. Oldham	1972	Rev. J. Riley
1939-1946	Rev. Geoffrey Schurr		(Priest-in-Charge)
1942	Rev. R. J. Witty	1974-1980	Rev. W. Cunliffe
	(Priest-in-Charge)	1980-1982	Rev. G. Nicholson
1946-1952	Rev. F. L. Allen	1982-1989	Rev. Terry Alve

LAYREADERS licensed:

1869	Wm. Howell, Edward Meek
1893	James Ponder
1896	C. W. Eichbaum
1903	Frank Truman
1905	Albert Hintz, Leonard Ellis, Harold Judge
1913	Chas. Ley, Walter Hedges.
1917	James Thomas, 1922 Diocesan Layreader
1923	Noel Hinson
1947	Michael Richardson
1952	Henry Fort
1960	Ray Leslie, Wilf Bissett
1967	Cliff Rodgers, Lionel Rathbone

CHURCH WARDENS since 1924:

PEOPLE'S:

1924-1939	C. Ley	1940	A. S. Watson
1941-1951	W. H. Talbot	1952-1967	A. D. Talbot
1968-1974	A. R. Leslie	1975-1982	D. B. Simpson
1983-	J. Dunbar		

## VICAR'S:

1924	A. S. Watson	1925-1926	R. C. Kingston
1927-1931	C. Probert	1932-1943	A. E. Kerr
1944-1949	G. B. Baker	1950-1951	L. Gray
1952-1953	G. H. Pike	1954-1956	H. O. Fort
1957-1958	F. R. Wilks	1959-1964	H. W. Fisher
1965-	H. W. Jackson		

oOo



## VESTRY, 1983

**Back Row:** Michael Hurst, Graeme Lee, John Talbot, Leicester Roberts, Mrs Carol Rodgers.

**Middle Row:** Mrs Betty Earl (Secretary), Mrs Pam Leslie, Mrs Rae Hurst, David Lindsay, Malcolm Cone (Synodsmen).

**Front Row:** Mrs Anne Dowall (Presbyterian Session Rep.), Wensley Jackson (Vicar's Warden), Terry Alve (Vicar), John Dunbar (People's Warden), Mrs Phyllis Chapman (Minute Recorder), Alan Talbot (Treasurer).

**Absent:** David Martin.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Canterbury Pilgrimage — Canon Parr.

South Canterbury—A Record of Settlement — O. Gillespie.

Past publications of Timaru Herald.

oOo

#### APOLOGIES:

If I have omitted anything of importance to readers I apologize. The first Minute Book 1883-1924, has been lost, and I have had to research old newspapers for this part of Parish history. Space and finance has also been a determining factor in amount printed.



# TE NGAWAI PARISH

